

PAIN

GOD'S GATEWAY TO EMPATHY AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS

SESSION 12

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SUMMARY OF CLASS

- Life in Christ is all about relationships, with God, others and ourselves
- If we reduce Christianity to a series of steps for handling life better, then we miss the whole point of the gospel
- Our **value** is rooted in His undeserved love (We are chosen – Eph. 1:4-5)
- Our **purpose** is to give others a taste of God's goodness that points them to Christ (Luke 9:24).
- Our **hope** is being with Christ in a future day when every relationship will work exactly as designed (1 Peter 1:3, Rev 21:4)

SUMMARY CONT.

- Self-Preservation (Gen. chapter 3, Gen 6:5)
- Self-Awareness (Rom 12:2, 2 Timothy 4:5)
- Self-Regulation (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- Empathy begins with these three principles

SUMMARY CONT.

GOD HAS DESIGNED US TO RELATE IN THESE WAYS

- To HIM by developing a confidence in His goodness. Because He's good, that enables us to trust Him no matter what happens or how we feel
- To OTHERS by giving ourselves away for Christ's sake with an energy that longs to see the same confidence in God grow in others (**interpersonal**)
- To OURSELVES by enjoying our unique dignity as men & women, who because of God's wisdom & kindness have something to give away that is useful for good purposes (**intrapersonal**)

SUMMARY CONT.

LIVE FOR OURSELVES OR GOD'S GLORY

- Devote the majority of our energies to overcoming our difficulties so that we can enjoy our life again and feel happy
- OR
- Be more concerned to trust God in the midst of our problems so that we can better reflect His glory and serve His purposes

SUMMARY CONT.

THREE STEP ROADMAP TO OTHER CENTEREDNESS

- **Enter in** – “What was it like for you”?
- **Connect** - **Hear** and **demonstrate** that you have heard them
- **Care** - Allow other people's experiences to impact you.